

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing unit in communication with client units, comprising:

unit managing means for managing the setup
5 status of driver information for peripheral
devices connected to the client units at said
client units; and

transmission controlling means for controlling
operations to send the driver information to the
10 client units based on said setup status.

2. The information processing unit according
to claim 1, comprising:

selection indicating means for indicating
15 selection of a second plurality of client units on
which to install driver information from among a
first plurality of client units; and

determining means for determining client units
on which to install driver information based on
20 said setup information from the second plurality
of client units whose selection is indicated by
said selection indicating means, wherein

said transmission controlling means controls
operations to send the driver information to the
25 client units determined by said determining means.

3. The information processing unit according

to claim 1, wherein

said setup status includes identification
information for the driver information
incorporated within said client units, and

5 said transmission controlling means controls
transmission operations to send said driver
information to client units if driver information
indicated by the identification of said driver
information is not in said client units.

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4. The information processing unit according
to claim 2, wherein

15 said setup status is collected by said
information processing unit communicating with
client units.

5. The information processing unit according
to claim 2, wherein

20 said determining means determines a third
plurality of client units on which install
operations are to be performed.

6. An information processing method for an
information processing unit in communication with
25 client units, comprising:

a device managing step of managing the setup
status of driver information for peripheral

devices connected to the client units at said client units; and

a transmission controlling step of controlling operations to send the driver information to the
5 client units based on said setup status.

7. The information processing method according to claim 6, comprising:

a selection indicating steps to indicate
10 selection of a second plurality of client units on which to install driver information from among a first plurality of client units; and

a determining step of determining client units on which to install driver information based on
15 said setup information from among the second plurality of client units whose selection is indicated by said selection indicating step, wherein

said transmission controlling step controls
20 operations to send the driver information to the client units determined by said determining step.

8. The information processing method according to claim 6, wherein

25 said setup status includes identification information for the driver information incorporated within said client units, and

said transmission controlling step controls
transmission operations to send said driver
information to client units if driver information
indicated by the identification of said driver
5 information is not in said client units.

9. The information processing method
according to claim 6, wherein

said setup status is collected by said
10 information processing unit communicating with
client units.

10. The information processing method
according to claim 7, wherein

15 said determining means determines a third
plurality of client units on which install
operations are to be performed.

11. A control program executed at an
20 information processing unit in communication with
client units, wherein said information processing
unit is caused to perform:

a unit managing step of managing the setup
status of driver information for peripheral
25 devices connected to the client units at said
client units; and

a transmission controlling step of controlling

operations to send the driver information to the client units based on said setup status.

12. The control program according to claim 11,
5 wherein said information processing is caused to further perform:

a selection indicating step of indicating
selection of a second plurality of client units on
which to install driver information from among a
10 first plurality of client units; and

a determining step of determining client units
on which to install driver information based on
said setup information from the second plurality
of client units whose selection is indicated by
15 said selection indicating step, and wherein

said information processing unit is operated
such that said transmission controlling step
controls operations to send the driver information
to the client units determined by said determining
20 step.

13. The control program according to claim 11,
wherein

said setup status includes identification
25 information for the driver information
incorporated within said client units, and said
information processing unit is operated such that

said transmission controlling step controls
transmission operations to send said driver
information to client units if driver information
indicated by the identification of said driver
5 information is not in said client units.

14. The control program according to claim 11,
wherein said information processing unit is
operated such that said setup status is collected
10 by said information processing unit communicating
with client units.

15. The control program according to claim 12,
wherein said information processing unit is
15 operated such that said determining step
determines a third plurality of client units on
which install operations are to be performed.

16. An information processing unit in
20 communication with client units, comprising:

determining means for determining a plurality
of client units on which to install driver
information; and

transmission controlling means for controlling
25 operations to distribute driver information for
controlling peripheral devices connected to said
client units to the plurality of clients

determined by said determining means.

17. The information processing unit according
to claim 16, wherein said driver information is
5 driver information for a printer driver, and
includes a test print instruction for the printer
on which said driver information is being set up.

18. The information processing unit according
10 to claim 16, wherein said driver information is
set up based on said setup instruction.

19. The information processing unit according
to claim 16, comprising selecting means for
15 manually selecting client units, wherein
said determining means determines the client
units selected by said selecting means.

20. An information processing method for an
20 information processing unit in communication with
a plurality of client units, comprising:

a determining step of determining a plurality
of client units on which to install driver
information; and

25 a transmission controlling step of controlling
operations to distribute driver information for
controlling peripheral devices connected to said

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client units to the plurality of clients
determined by said determining step.

21. The information processing method
5 according to claim 20, wherein said driver
information is driver information for a printer
driver, and includes a test print instruction for
the printer on which said driver information is
being set up.

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22. The information processing method
according to claim 20, wherein said client units
set up said driver based on said setup instruction.

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23. The information processing method
according to claim 20, comprising a selecting step
of manually selecting client units, wherein
said determining step determines the client
units selected by said selecting steps.

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24. A control program executed on an
information processing unit in communication with
a plurality of client units, wherein the
information processing unit is caused to perform:

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a determining step of determining a plurality
of clients on which to install driver information;
and

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a transmission controlling step of controlling
operations to distribute driver information for
controlling peripheral devices connected to said
client units to the plurality of clients
5 determined by said determining step.

25. The control program according to claim 24,
wherein said driver information is driver
information for a printer driver, and includes a
10 test print instruction for the printer on which
said driver information is being set up.

26. The control program according to claim 24,
wherein the information processing unit is
15 operated such that said client units set up said
driver information based on said setup instruction.

27. The control program according to claim 24,
wherein the information processing unit is caused
20 to perform the selecting step of manually
selecting client units, and the information
processing unit is operated such that said
determining step determines the client units
selected in said selecting step.

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28. An information processing unit in
communication with peripheral devices and a server

unit, comprising:

recognizing means for recognizing a setup instruction and driver information from said server unit; and

5 program managing means for installing on said client units driver information for controlling said peripheral devices in response to recognizing said setup instruction without requesting said server unit for a setup instruction.

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29. The information processing unit according to claim 28, wherein said program managing means controls said client units so that the client units register identification information for
15 peripheral devices in association with said driver information.

30. The information processing unit according to claim 28, wherein said program managing means
20 controls an OS so that the OS recognizes identification information for peripheral devices in association with said driver information via an application programming interface of the OS installed on said client unit.

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31. The information processing unit according to claim 28, wherein said program managing means

compares the identification information of the driver indicated by said setup instruction with the identification information of the existing drivers stored in said client units, and if the identification information of the driver indicated by said setup instruction does not match the identification information of said existing drivers, stores the driver indicated by said setup instruction in said client units.

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32. The information processing unit according to claim 28, wherein said program managing means updates the driver information in said client units to the driver information indicated by said setup instruction if the information representing the version of the existing drivers stored in said client units turns out to be newer than the information representing the version of the driver indicated by said setup instruction.

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33. An information processing method for an information processing unit in communication with peripheral devices and a server unit, comprising:

a recognizing step of recognizing a setup instruction and driver information from said server unit; and

a program managing step of installing on said

client units driver information for controlling
said peripheral devices in response to recognizing
said setup instruction without requesting said
server unit for a setup instruction.

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34. The information processing method
according to claim 33, wherein said program
managing step controls said client units so that
the client units register identification
10 information for peripheral devices in association
with said driver information.

35. The information processing method
according to claim 33, wherein said program
15 managing step controls an OS so that the OS
recognizes identification information for
peripheral devices in association with said driver
information via an application programming
interface of the OS installed on said client unit.

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36. The information processing method
according to claim 33, wherein said program
managing step compares the identification
information of the driver indicated by said setup
25 instruction with the identification information of
the existing drivers stored in said client units,
and if the identification information of the

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driver indicated by said setup instruction does not match the identification information of said existing drivers, stores the driver indicated by said setup instruction in said client units.

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37. The information processing method according to claim 33, wherein said program managing step updates the driver information in said client units to the driver information indicated by said setup instruction if the information representing the version of the existing drivers stored in said client units turns out to be newer than the information representing the version of the driver indicated by said setup instruction.

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38. A control program executed on an information processing unit in communication with peripheral devices and a server unit, wherein the information processing unit is caused to perform:

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a recognizing step of recognizing a setup instruction and driver information from said server unit; and

a program managing step of installing on said client units driver information for controlling said peripheral devices in response to recognizing said setup instruction without requesting said

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FOOTNOTES

server unit for a setup instruction.

39. The control program according to claim 38,
wherein said program managing step controls said
5 client units so that the client units register
identification information for peripheral devices
in association with said driver information.

40. The control program according to claim 38,
10 wherein said program managing step controls an OS
so that the OS recognizes identification
information for peripheral devices in association
with said driver information via an application
programming interface of the OS installed on said
15 client unit.

41. The control program according to claim 38,
wherein said program managing step compares the
identification information of the driver indicated
20 by said setup instruction with the identification
information of the existing drivers stored in said
client units, and if the identification
information of the driver indicated by said setup
instruction does not match the identification
25 information of said existing drivers, stores the
driver indicated by said setup instruction in said
client units.

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42. The control program according to claim 38,
wherein said program managing step updates the
driver information in said client units to the
driver information indicated by said setup
5 instruction if the information representing the
version of the existing drivers stored in said
client units turns out to be newer than the
information representing the version of the driver
indicated by said setup instruction.

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43. An information processing unit in
communication with peripheral devices and a server
unit, comprising:

program managing means for setting up drivers
15 based on instructions from said server unit to
setup drivers for said peripheral devices, wherein
instructions are generated in response to the
completion of said setup to have said peripheral
devices execute test printing to check if the
20 setup has been completed normally.

44. The information processing unit according
to claim 43, wherein said program managing means
invokes installing means of an OS via an
25 application programming interface of the OS
installed on said client unit, and the installing
means of said OS invoked via said application

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programming interface introduces driver
information into said client unit.
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45. The information processing unit according
5 to claim 43 or 44, wherein said program managing
means is activated in response to a command from
said server unit.

46. The information processing unit according
10 to claim 45, wherein the command from said server
unit is described in the Simple Object Access
Protocol.

47. An information processing method for an
15 information processing unit in communication with
a server unit and peripheral devices, comprising:
a program managing step of setting up drivers
based on instructions from said server unit to
setup drivers for said peripheral devices; and
20 a step of generating instructions in response
to the completion of said setup, to have said
peripheral devices execute test printing to check
if the setup has been completed normally.

25 48. The information processing method
according to claim 47, wherein said program
managing step invokes installing means of an OS

via an application programming interface of the OS installed on said client unit, and the installing step of said OS invoked via said application programming interface introduces driver
5 information into said client unit.

49. The information processing method according to claims 47 and 48, wherein said program managing step is started in response to a
10 command from said server unit.

50. The information processing method according to claims 49, wherein the command from said server unit is described in the Simple Object
15 Access Protocol.

51. A control program executed on an information processing unit in communication with a server unit and peripheral devices, wherein the
20 information processing unit is caused to perform:
a program managing step of setting up drivers based on instructions from said server unit to setup drivers for said peripheral devices; and
a step of generating instructions in response
25 to the completion of said setup, to have said peripheral devices execute test printing to check if the setup has been completed normally.

52. The control program according to claim 51,
wherein the information processing unit is
operated such that said program managing step
invokes installing means of an OS via an
5 application programming interface of the OS
installed on said client unit, and the installing
step of said OS invoked via said application
programming interface introduces driver
information into said client unit.

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53. The control program according to claim 51
or 52, wherein said program managing step is
performed in response to a command from said
server unit.

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54. The control program according to claim 53,
wherein the command from said server unit is
described in the Simple Object Access Protocol.

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55. An information processing unit in
communication with client units, comprising:

determining means for determining client units
on which a driver is to be set up; and

transmission controlling means for controlling
25 operations to send said client units an
instruction to set up a driver for said client
units as well as an instruction to have said

client units execute test printing to check if the driver setup for said client units has been completed normally.

5 56. The information processing unit in communication with a plurality of client units according to claim 55, wherein said information processing unit communicates with a plurality of client units, and said transmission controlling
10 means comprises transmission controlling means for controlling transmission operations to send said plurality of client units an instruction to install driver information as well as said test print instruction.

15 57. The information processing unit according to claim 55, further comprising selecting means for manually selecting client units, wherein
20 said determining means determines the client units selected by said selecting means.

 58. The information processing unit according to one of claims 55 to 57, wherein the test print request source is printed in said test printing.

25 59. The information processing unit according to one of claims 55 to 58, wherein the name of the

print server used in executing said test printing
is printed in said test printing.

60. An information processing method for an
5 information processing unit in communication with
client units, comprising:

a determining step of determining client units
on which a driver is to be set up; and

a transmission controlling step of controlling
10 operations to send said client units an
instruction to set up a driver for said client
units as well as an instruction to have said
client units execute test printing to check if the
driver setup for said client units has been
15 completed normally.

61. The information processing method for an
information processing unit in communication with
client units according to claim 60, wherein said
20 information processing unit communicates with a
plurality of client units, and transmission
controlling step comprises transmission
controlling step of controlling transmission
operations to send said plurality of client units
25 an instruction to install driver information as
well as said test print instruction.

62. The information processing method according to claim 60, further comprising a selecting step of manually selecting client units, wherein

5 said determining step determines the client units manually selected by said selecting step.

63. The information processing method according to one of claims 60 to 62, wherein the
10 test print request source is printed in said test printing.

64. The information processing method according to one of claims 60 to 63, wherein the
15 name of the server used in executing said test printing is printed in said test printing.

65. A control program executed on an information processing unit in communication with
20 client units, wherein the information processing unit is caused to perform:

 a determining step of determining client units on which a driver is to be set up; and

 a transmission controlling step of controlling
25 operations to send said client units an instruction to set up a driver for said client units as well as an instruction to have said

client units execute test printing to check if the driver setup for said client units has been completed normally.

5 66. The information processing program according to claim 65, wherein said information processing unit communicates with a plurality of client units, and said transmission controlling means executes on the information processing unit
10 a transmission controlling step of controlling transmission operations to send said plurality of client units an instruction to install driver information as well as said test printing instruction.

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 67. The information processing program according to claim 65, wherein the information processing unit is caused to perform a selecting step of manually selecting client units, and the
20 information processing unit is operated such that said determining step determines said client units manually selected by said selecting step.

 68. The control program according to any one
25 of claims 65 to 67, wherein the information processing unit is operated such that the test print request source is printed in said test

printing.

69. The control program control program
according to any one of claims 65 to 68, wherein
5 the name of the print server used in executing
said test printing is printed in said test
printing.

70. The computer readable medium storing the
10 control program according to any one of claims 11
to 15, or claims 24 to 47, or claims 38 to 42, or
claims 51 to 54, or claims 65 to 69.

71. A network system including client units
15 and a server unit, comprising:

unit managing means for managing the setup
status of driver for peripheral devices connected
to the client units at said client units;

transmission controlling means for controlling
20 operations to send the driver information
corresponding to said client units to the
plurality of client units based on said setup
status;

recognizing means for recognizing a setup
25 instruction and driver information from said
server unit; and

program managing means for installing on said

plurality of client units driver information for
controlling said peripheral devices in response to
receiving said driver information from said server
unit, without requesting said server unit for the
5 driver information.

72. A network system including client units
and an information processing unit, comprising:

determining means for determining client units
10 on which to a driver is to be set up;

transmission controlling means for controlling
operations to send said client units an instruction
to set up a driver for said client units as well as
an instruction to have said client units execute
15 test printing to check if the driver setup for said
client units has been completed normally;

receiving means for receiving the setup
instruction, the driver information, and said test
printing instruction from said server unit;

20 program managing means for installing on said
client units driver information for controlling
said peripheral devices in response to receiving
said driver information from said server unit,
without requesting said server unit for the driver
25 information, and for issuing a command to instruct
test printing based on said test printing
instruction.